

YOUR RIGHTS AS A KENTUCKY TAXPAYER

The mission of the Kentucky Department of Revenue (DOR) is to administer tax laws, collect revenue, and provide services in a fair, courteous, and efficient manner for the benefit of the Commonwealth and its citizens.

As a Kentucky taxpayer, you have the right to expect the DOR to honor its mission and uphold your rights every time you contact or are contacted by the DOR.

RIGHTS OF TAXPAYER

Privacy—You have the right to privacy of information provided to the DOR.

Assistance—You have the right to advice and assistance from the DOR in complying with state tax laws.

Explanation—You have the right to a clear and concise explanation of:

- basis of assessment of additional taxes, interest and penalties, or the denial or reduction of any refund or credit claim;
- procedure for protest and appeal of a determination of the DOR; and
- tax laws and changes in tax laws so that you can comply with the law.

Protest and Appeal—You have the right to protest and appeal a determination of the DOR if you disagree with an assessment of tax or penalty, reduction or a denial of a refund, a revocation of a license or permit, or other determination made by the DOR.

Conference—You have the right to a conference to discuss a tax matter.

Representation—You have the right to representation by your authorized agent (attorney, accountant or other person) in any hearing or conference with the DOR. You have the right to be informed of this right prior to the conference or hearing. If you intend for your representative to attend the conference or hearing in your place, you may be required to give your representative a power of attorney before the DOR can discuss tax matters with your authorized agent.

Recordings—You have the right to make an audio recording of any meeting, conference or hearing with the DOR, or to be notified in advance if the DOR plans to record the proceedings and to receive a copy of any recording.

Consideration—You have the right to consideration of:

- waiver of penalties or collection fees if "reasonable cause" for reduction or waiver is given ("reasonable cause" is defined in KRS 131.010(9) as: "an event, happening, or circumstance entirely beyond the knowledge or control of a taxpayer who has exercised due care and prudence in the filing of a return or report or the payment of monies due the department pursuant to law or administrative regulation");
- installment payments of delinquent taxes, interest and penalties;
- waiver of interest and penalties, but not taxes, resulting from incorrect written advice from the DOR if all facts were given and the law did not change or the courts did not issue a ruling to the contrary;
- extension of time for filing reports or returns; and
- payment of charges incurred resulting from an erroneous filing of a lien or levy by the DOR.

Guarantee—You have the right to a guarantee that DOR employees are not paid, evaluated or promoted based on taxes assessed or collected, or a tax assessment or collection quota or goal imposed or suggested.

Damages—You have the right to file a claim for actual and direct monetary damages with the Kentucky Board of Claims if a DOR employee willfully, recklessly and intentionally disregards your rights as a Kentucky taxpayer.

Interest—You have the right to receive interest on an overpayment of tax, except delinquent property tax, payable at the same rate you would pay if you underpaid your tax.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE RESPONSIBILITIES

The DOR has the responsibility to:

- perform audits, conduct conferences and hearings with you at reasonable times and places;
- authorize, require or conduct an investigation or surveillance of you only if it relates to a tax matter;
- make a written request for payment of delinquent taxes which are due and payable at least 30 days prior to seizure and sale of your assets;
- conduct educational and informational programs to help you understand and comply with the laws;
- publish clear and simple statements to explain tax procedures, remedies, your rights and obligations, and the rights and obligations of the DOR;
- notify you in writing when an erroneous lien or levy is released and, if requested, notify major credit reporting companies in counties where lien was filed;
- advise you of procedures, remedies and your rights and obligations with an original notice of audit or when an original notice of tax due is issued, a refund or credit is denied or reduced, or whenever a license or permit is denied, revoked or canceled;
- notify you in writing prior to termination or modification of a payment agreement;
- furnish copies of the agent's audit workpapers and a written narrative explaining the reason(s) for the assessment;
- resolve tax controversies on a fair and equitable basis at the administrative level whenever possible; and
- notify you in writing at your last known address at least 60 days prior to publishing your name on a list of delinquent taxpayers for which a tax or judgment lien has been filed.

The DOR has a Taxpayer Ombudsman's Office which consists of the Ombudsman and a staff whose job is to serve as an advocate for taxpayers' rights. One of the main functions of the office is to ensure that your rights as a Kentucky taxpayer are protected by the DOR.

The Taxpayer Ombudsman's Office may be contacted by telephone at (502) 564-7822 (between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays). From a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD), call (502) 564-3058. The mailing address is: Office of Taxpayer Ombudsman, P.O. Box 930, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0930.

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This information merely summarizes your rights as a Kentucky taxpayer and the responsibilities of the Department of Revenue. The Kentucky Taxpayers' Bill of Rights may be found in the Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) at Chapter 131.041—131.081. Additional rights and responsibilities are provided for in KRS 131.020, 131.110, 131.170, 131.183, 131.500, 133.120, 133.130, 134.580 and 134.590.

PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURE

Protest—If you receive a notice of assessment, a Notice of Tax Due for tax or penalty or if the DOR notifies you that a tax refund or credit has been reduced or denied, a license or permit revoked or denied, or other determination made by the DOR, you have the right to protest. To do so:

- submit a written protest within 45 days from the original notice date;
- identify the type of tax involved and give the account number, Social Security number or other identification number and attach a copy of the DOR notice of determination to support that protest is timely;
- explain why you disagree;
- attach any proof or documentation available to support your protest or request additional time to support your protest;
- sign your statement, include your daytime telephone number and mailing address; and
- mail to the Kentucky Department of Revenue, Frankfort, KY 40620.

Conference—If you have not been able to resolve the tax matter through your protest, you have the right to request a conference to discuss the issue.

Independent Informal Review—If you feel after the conference that you have not been treated in a fair and equitable manner, you have the right to request an independent informal review.

Final Ruling—If you do not want to have a conference or if the conference did not resolve your protest, you have the right to request a final ruling of the DOR so that you can appeal your case further.

Appeal—If you do not agree with the DOR's final ruling, you can file a written appeal with the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals. If you do not agree with the decision of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, you have the right to appeal the ruling to the Kentucky courts (first to the circuit court in your home county or in Franklin County, then to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, and you have the right to request a review by the Kentucky Supreme Court).

Note: The above protest and appeal procedures do not apply for assessments of all types of property tax. Contact the local PVA for information about how to appeal the valuation of real property.

WHERE TO GET ASSISTANCE

The DOR has offices in Frankfort and taxpayer service centers in nine cities and towns throughout Kentucky. DOR employees in the service centers answer tax questions and provide assistance. The office locations and telephone numbers are listed elsewhere in this packet.

The DOR also has a Taxpayer Ombudsman's Office which consists of the Ombudsman and a staff whose job is to serve as an advocate for taxpayers' rights. One of the main functions of the office is to ensure that your rights as a Kentucky taxpayer are protected by the DOR.

Also, an important function of the Taxpayer Ombudsman's Office is to confer with DOR employees when you have a problem or conflict that you have been unable to resolve. However, it is not the role of the Ombudsman's Office to intercede in an audit, handle a protest, waive taxes, penalty or interest, or answer technical tax questions. To file a protest, see PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURE. Please do not mail your protest to the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's Office is your advocate and is there to make sure your rights are protected. If you think you are not being treated fairly or if you have a problem or complaint, please contact the Ombudsman's Office so they can help you.

The Taxpayer Ombudsman's Office may be contacted by telephone at (502) 564-7822 (between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays). From a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD), call (502) 564-3058. The mailing address is: Office of Taxpayer Ombudsman, P.O. Box 930, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0930.

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